

DAMALIS FABRICIUS, 1805 (INSECTA, DIPTERA):
REQUEST FOR DESIGNATION OF TYPE SPECIES
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Abstract: The Commission is requested to suppress the type species designation by Westwood, 1835, for *Damalis* Fabricius, 1805 (*Damalis curvipes* Fabricius, 1805; Diptera: EMPIDIDAE) in favour of the designation by Hull, 1962 (*Damalis planiceps* Fabricius, 1805; Diptera: ASILIDAE). Since the revision of Wiedemann, 1828, the genus *Damalis* Fabr. has been generally accepted as a valid genus in ASILIDAE and ignored in EMPIDIDAE.

Fabricius, 1805, p. 147, erected the genus *Damalis* for four species: (1) *D. curvipes* Fabricius, 1805, p. 147 (America mer.); (2) *D. planiceps* Fabricius, 1805, p. 148 (Tranquebariae, India); (3) *D. quadricinctus* Fabricius, 1805, p. 148 (America mer.); and (4) *D. myops* Fabricius, 1805, p. 148 (Sumatra). Wiedemann, 1828, p. 415, found the first (*curvipes*) and the third (*quadricinctus*) species to be Neotropical EMPIDIDAE and transferred them to the genus *Hybos* Meigen, 1803. The remaining two species, the second (*planiceps*) and the fourth (*myops*) from the Oriental region, he found to be ASILIDAE and left them in the genus *Damalis* Fabricius. This classification was generally accepted by subsequent authors, but the two empidids were later correctly transferred to the genus *Syneches* Walker, 1852, when the genus *Hybos* Meigen, 1803 was split into several distinct genera.

2. Westwood, 1835, apparently without knowing of Wiedemann's 1828 classification, designated the first named *Damalis* species, *Damalis curvipes* Fabricius, 1805, as a type species of the genus *Damalis* Fabricius. By this action Westwood fixed the genus *Damalis* in the family EMPIDIDAE, in opposition to the purpose of Wiedemann's classification.

3. However, Westwood's 1835 type designation was ignored by dipterists and the genus *Damalis* has generally been placed in the ASILIDAE, following Wiedemann, 1828, and rejected in the EMPIDIDAE. Hull, 1962, p. 53, following the principle of conservation of names and in the interest of stability of nomenclature, made a new type species designation for *Damalis* Fabricius; he chose a species of ASILIDAE, the second originally included species, *Damalis planiceps* Fabricius, 1805. However, no proposal has yet been put before the I.C.Z.N. and still two different type designations exist for the genus *Damalis*.

4. Further recent references to and agreements with Hull's

1962 action may be found for instance in Smith, 1967, p. 9 and Wilder, 1974, p. 2. Hull, 1962, also supports the usage of the name *Damalis* in ASILIDAE by the existence of several valid generic names in this family based on *Damalis*, such as *Lasiodamalis* Hermann, *Lophurodamalis* Hermann and *Damalina* Doleschall. These names indicate the current usage of the genus *Damalis* in ASILIDAE, whereas the name is practically unknown in the literature on EMPIDIDAE, except for lists of synonyms in monographs and catalogues.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly requested:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all designation of type species hitherto made for the nominal genus *Damalis* Fabricius, 1805, and having done so to designate *Damalis planiceps* Fabricius, 1805 as type species of that genus;
- (2) to place the generic name *Damalis* Fabricius, 1805 (gender: masculine), type species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Damalis planiceps* Fabricius, 1805, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name *planiceps* Fabricius, 1805, as published in the binomen *Damalis planiceps* (specific name of type species of *Damalis* Fabricius, 1805) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

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